

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 11980 041842Z

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SUBJECT: CIA DIRECTOR'S REMARKS PROMPT COMMENT ON MIDDLE
EAST TENSIONS BY VENEZUELAN POLITICAL LEADERS

REF: CARACAS 11711

SUMMARY: THE RECENT INTERVIEW BY CIA DIRECTOR COLBY IN
U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT HAS GENERATED CONSIDERABLE
REACTION HERE, ALL ADVERSE. LATEST TO COMMENT ON
THE ARTICLE, AND ON U.S. POLICIES AS THEY PERCEIVE THEM
AS A RESULT OF THE ARTICLE, ARE VENEZUELAN CONGRESS AND
ACCION DEMOCRATICA PRESIDENT GONZALO BARRIOS AND THE HEAD
OF THE POWERFUL VENEZUELAN CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS, FRANCISCO
OLIVO. END SUMMARY.

1. PRESIDENT OF THE VENEZUELAN CONGRESS AND ACCION DEMOCRATICA
PARTY PRESIDENT GONZALO BARRIOS, IN AN INTERVIEW WITH EL
ACIONAL PUBLISHED DECEMBER 4, IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT
"THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, SO FAR AS IT CONCERNS THE
PETROLEUM CRISIS AND CONSEQUENTLY VENEZUELA, IE EXTREMELY
GRAVE AND IN EXTREME DANGER BECAUSE THE GREAT POWERS, AND ES-
PECIALLY THE UNITED STATES, ARE BECOMING CONVINCED, OR ARE
ALREADY CONVINCED, THAT THE HIGH PRICE OF PETROLEUM AND THE
FACT AHT THIS RESOURCE IS IN THE POSSESSION OF LESSER DEVELOPED
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PAGE 02 CARACA 11980 041842Z

COUNTRIES AND OF SOME LIKE THE ARAB STATES WHICH ARE IN

CONFLICT WITH THE UNITED STATES, COULD LEAD TO THE TOTAL RUIN OF THE CAPITALIST ECONOMY AND THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CIVILIZATION WHICH HAS ITS HIGHEST EXPRESSION IN THE NORTH AMERICAN NATION." STATED BARRIOS, "IT SEEMS TO ME THAT WE CANNOT DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY OF AN EXTREME REACTION BY THOSE WHO FEEL TREATED, A REACTION WHICH COULD INCLUDE THE USE OF FORCE TO TAKE OVER THE OIL FIELDS WHICH GUARANTEE AN ABUNDANT SUPPLY AND AT LIMITED COST." BARRIOS WENT ON TO SAY THAT ALTHOUGH VENEZUELA "DOES NOT FIGURES IN THE SUPPOSED PLANS FOR INTERVENTION, THE MATTER COULD NOT HELP BUT AFFECT US." HE SUGGESTED VENEZUELA FOLLOW "A FIRM, BUT AT THE SAME TIME SERENE AND DISCREET LINE OF CONDUCT." BARRIOS CONCLUDED BY OBSERVING THAT "PERHAPS MY JUDGMENT IS INFLUENCED BY THE IMPRESSIONS WHICH I BROUGHT FROM CHINA (WHICH BARRIOS RECENTLY VISITED), WHERE IT IS CONSIDERED THAT TWO SUPERPOWERS ARE CAPABLE OF ANY UNDERSTANDING, HOWEVER IMMORAL, TO SAFEGUARD THEIR SHARED HEGEMONY." A PHOTOGRAPH OF BARRIOS ACCOMPANYING THE ARTICLE SHOWS HIM READING THE RECENT ISSUE OF U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT CONTAINING REMARKS BY CIA DIRECTOR COLBY CONCERNING OPERATIONS OF THAT AGENCY.

2. THE SAME PAGE OF EL NACIONAL CARRIES AN INTERVIEW WITH SENATOR AND CONFEDERATION OF VENEZUELAN WORKERS (CTV) PRESIDENT FRANCISCO OLIVO, WHO, A PROPOS OF THE COLBY REMARKS ABOUT THE CIA, ON BEHALF OF THE CTV "REJECTS THREATS OF ARMED INTERVENTION BY THE UNITED STATES AGAINST THE ARAB COUNTRIES AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE ENERGY CRISIS." OLIVO TERMED THE COLBY REMARKS "NEGATIVE, ANTI-DEMOCRATIC, AND FUNDAMENTALLY INJURIOUS TO THE RIGHTS OF THE DEVELOPING NATIONS OF THE THIRD WORLD." OLIVO WENT ON TO EXPRESS FULL SUPPORT FOR OPEC AND ITS POLICIES.
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